

MISSOURI

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Annual Report

2022



PREPARING FOR SUCCESS



Sergeant Kavin
State Vice President
2022-2023

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State Vice President
2022-2023

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At the local level, the student has a professional (the agriculture instructor) guiding them to the available opportunities, and the instructor is the key to a successful local program. Our profession works hard to give the instructor the tools he or she needs to continue to guide an agricultural education program to the desired goals of the local school and community.

While you view this annual report, I believe you will find Missouri Agricultural Education continues to provide opportunities for our secondary, post-secondary and adult students. These opportunities fall into the three areas of our current vision: Grow Leaders, Build Communities, and Strengthen Agriculture. The vision and opportunities are all intertwined in an integrated agricultural program that focuses on providing opportunities in classroom/laboratory, work experiences with their supervised agricultural experience projects, and developing leadership skills through FFA, Young Farmers and Professional Agricultural Students organizations.

My challenge to educators and external stakeholders is to continue providing opportunities for our programs as we guide students to take advantage of the opportunities and find their niche in life. My challenge to students is to "jump in" and find the opportunities, embrace them and then "make you."

Enjoy the report and have a great year!

Keith Dietzschold

Director, Agricultural Education
Missouri Department of Elementary
and Secondary Education

"*Life is a matter of choices, and every choice you make, makes you.*"

Let's adjust a few words in John C. Maxwell's quote above so that it reads:

Life is a matter of opportunities and every opportunity you take, makes you?

What a powerful thought to consider!

Missouri Agricultural Education has a goal to provide opportunities for those students interested in agriculture, whether this occurs in business, production, technology, research, or leadership activities. The opportunities Missouri Agricultural Education strives to provide take shape in many forms and are available to those enrolled in approved programs across the state for secondary, post-secondary and adult students. The key is for the student to jump in and take advantage of those opportunities.

School-Based *Agricultural Education*

353

High school agricultural education graduates in 2020. 67% are pursuing agriculture as a career.

29,367

Missouri high schools and career centers offering agricultural classes for students.

4,413

Students enrolled in Missouri agricultural education programs.



CLASSROOM

Through classroom instruction, agricultural education students use unique problem-solving skills.



FFA

FFA, leadership development activities promote personal skill development.



SUPERVISED AGRICULTURAL EXPERIENCE (SAE)

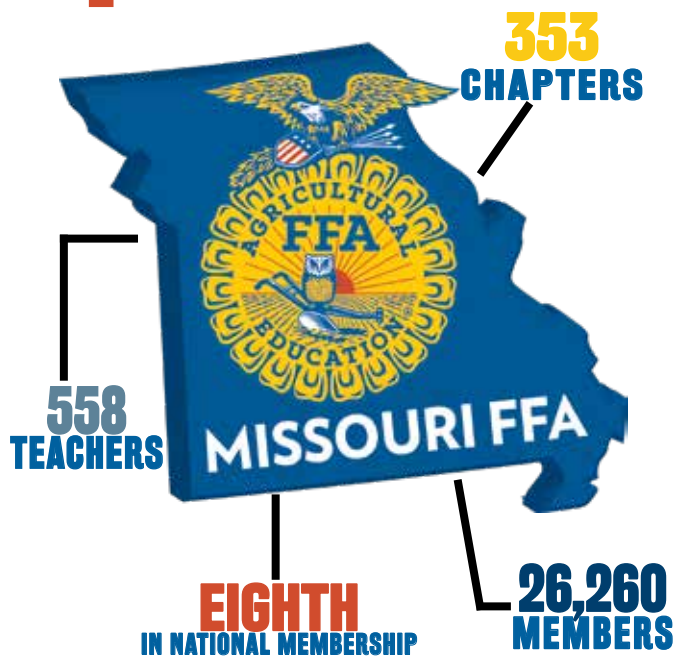
Ag education students gain hands-on experience outside the classroom through their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE).

Missouri's TOP FIVE SAEs

1. Placement/Animal Systems
2. Placement/Food Production & Processing
3. Placement in Agribusiness Systems
4. Beef Production
5. Placement/Power Structures & Technology

\$ **\$3,222** SAE-Generated Labor Income Per Student

\$58,195,602 SAE-Generated Student Labor Income



Top 10 Accomplishments

- 1 Achieved the second highest number of **American FFA Degrees** by a state: **539**.
- 2 **Leon Busdieker**, past Missouri FFA Advisor, received the VIP Citation at the 2021 National FFA Convention.
- 3 **Brett Montgomery, Brookfield FFA**, was named the national winner in the Veterinary Science Proficiency Award Area.
- 4 **George Frees, Cass Career Center FFA**, earned first place in the National Agriscience Plant Systems Research Proficiency Award Area.
- 5 **Kylie Cline, Tuscumbia FFA**, was selected as the winner in Food Products and Processing Systems Division of the National Agriscience Fair.
- 6 **Missouri Agricultural Education** was named the NASAE National Innovation Award Winner for the Missouri Show Me Leadership Summit in Oct. 2021.
- 7 **Paris FFA** was named the Model of Excellence Top Chapter in the Nation.
- 8 **State FFA Convention, Greenhand Motivational Conference, Career and Leadership Development Events, and State FFA Camp** returned to **in person** normal capacity throughout the state.
- 9 More than **750 FFA members** packed **203,544 meals** as part of Missouri Farmers Care Drive to Feed Kids.
- 10 **1,597 FFA members** applied for Proficiency awards in the 46 different areas that were eventually narrowed down to **46 state winners**.

GROWING
Leaders

Kate Nebeker
State Auditor
2021-2022



“I believe in the future of agriculture...” – the first line of the FFA Creed. Crafted nearly a century ago, this single statement continues to represent the founding principle of our organization: the quest to strengthen American agriculture by shaping the next generation of agricultural leaders.

Our industry continues to seek highly qualified, competent, innovative leaders to progress toward the future. Luckily, agricultural education not only continues to cater toward their needs, but remains one of the most beneficial and practical instruction categories offered in our schools. Through classroom instruction, Supervised Agricultural Experience Programs, and the National FFA Organization, students are able to expand upon their skill set and knowledge base, enabling them to prevail in any endeavor they choose. Additionally, we continue to excel in youth leadership development, guaranteeing a promising tomorrow. The plethora of meaningful opportunities available to students ensure the delivery of our mission; “to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.”



Each year, countless individuals work tirelessly to ensure members from around our state receive the most fulfilling and impactful experience possible. Thus, it is our hope that the contents of this report will highlight and pay tribute to the various ways Agricultural Education and the Missouri FFA Association continue to develop competent young leaders capable of changing the world.

Colton Roy
President
Missouri FFA Association

2022-23 State FFA

Officers



Bottom row left to right:

Jacob King, Emily Nelson, Cody Garver, Colton Roy, Grace Doss, Aubrey Jung, Kate Rogers and Hannah Shanks (Mentor).

Top Row (then down the steps)

Cooper Hamlin, Jason Holland, Malerie Schutt, Hannah Rice, Katie Fredrickson, Allison Schnieder, Jodi Robinson, Morgan Watkins, and Annamarie Stone.

Cream of the Crop

How does a small-town FFA chapter in rural Missouri get to be the top chapter in the nation?

For Paris High School's agricultural education department and FFA chapter, it all comes down to 4 corner posts: public speaking, community involvement, putting agriculture first and having fun.

"Every activity that we do relates back to these four foundations," explains Josh Bondy, one of the school's two ag ed instructors. "We strive to help every member of the Paris Ag Department grow in each of these areas each year."

Paris was named the nation's Top Chapter-Model of Excellence at the 2021 National FFA Convention last October in Indianapolis.

Achieving the feat was a goal the chapter set for itself amid the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic. Bondy says the chapter chose not to slow down, but to do more during that time.

"Our members saw needs, developed solutions and helped solve problems in new ways," Bondy says. "We try not to limit ourselves to the agriculture in our back yard, but expose all students to form broad-based knowledge of the industry."

The Paris FFA Chapter works hand-in-hand with the community, according to Bondy.

Partnerships were formed with local churches, the senior citizens center and businesses as the chapter worked to complete activities. He says the school district is the center point of the community, and after the chapter was recognized nationally, the community organized an assembly that involved the entire town to help celebrate their accomplishments.

Some of the activities and projects that helped lead to the chapter's success included: growing leaders through flamingo farming to promote healthy lifestyles and vision boards for developing personal growth; building communities by way of coyotes hunting coyotes environmental project and meals of plenty to promote citizenship; and strengthening agriculture through its 9 volt hand out to promote safety and winner, winner chicken dinner agricultural advocacy program.

"Being named Model of Excellence is a career goal we have as advisors," Bondy concludes. "We are truly blessed to work with the best kids and community."



Premier Chapter

GROWING LEADERS Missouri Chapter Award Program



“We **grow leaders** by adapting our **Program of Activities** to meet the needs of our community. Our chapter offered a **community education** night, partnering **students with farmers** to train them in farm first aid to help *bridge the gap* between an accident and the arrival of EMTs.”

—Tyler Burgin, Pleasant Hill FFA Advisor

Food Science *for the Win*

“You eat with your eyes first.” This well-known adage among the culinary industry has helped many chefs serve both tasty and beautiful meals, satisfying customers' eyes and stomachs alike. Is the food marketing sector missing out on this tactic? Kylie Cline of the Tuscumbe FFA Chapter set out to answer this and more in her first place Food Products & Processing Systems Division 5 Agriscience Fair project at the 2021 National FFA Convention.

“Many products like meat and produce both are more marketable if they can be seen,” Cline says.

Through her agriscience project, her goal was to provide the food packaging industry a means of comparison for viable, edible films that meet their marketing goals.

“The edible film on meats and produce must be highly transparent,” Cline shares. “Cottage cheese and yogurt on the other hand use an edible film within the container for the purpose of ensuring freshness.”

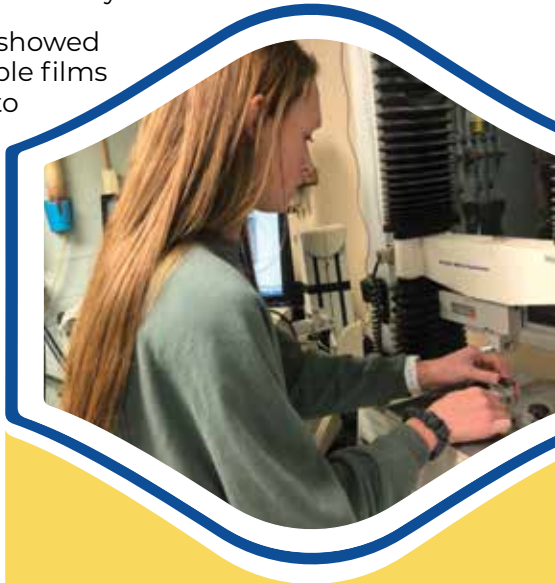
She says her study allowed specific areas of the food industry to determine what edible film type would best meet their food packaging needs.

A tint meter provided by the local sheriff's department helped Cline test the transparency of the films. Working with the University of Missouri's agricultural engineering facility, she used a textural analyzer to monitor film strength next.

“Transparency may or may not indicate the promise of an edible film for food packaging since end-use application is important,” Cline explains. “For example, as a protective film inside cottage cheese or yogurt containers, transparency would not matter. However, if the food product needed to be visible through the packaging, such as bread or salad, then transparency is important and could help food companies better market their products.”

When looking at both transparency and tensile strength, the edible films produced from polysaccharide materials performed better throughout Cline's study.

“This research showed that viable edible films were possible to make,” Cline concludes. “It also demonstrated that at least some of the edible films were potential food packaging materials. Perhaps a composite film using these biopolymers combined would produce an even better food packaging material.”



Down to *Business*

Paris

FFA member
Carlee
Long
has

always wanted to be like her mom, who has a career in sales. Once Carlee joined FFA, she began to chart her own course in the field. From wood shavings to high-quality show pig feed to freezer beef and pork, Carlee cornered the market by launching a diversified Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) that would help her be named the State Star in Agribusiness at the 2022 Missouri FFA Convention.

Carlee's SAE started in 2019 with the purchase of her sister's inventory of Nieman Wood Shavings. Once that inventory was sold, the young entrepreneur sought out a different brand that proved to be both high quality and less expensive. She's grown that arm of her agribusiness to gross more than \$14,000 per year. In addition to selling wood shavings, Carlee markets show pig feed to local exhibitors and breeders. Offering a high-quality product at a reasonable price, she created a system to ensure her billing and payment process was the best it could be. The third component of Carlee's SAE includes marketing freezer beef and pork to consumers off her farm, as well as at local farmers' markets.



One of the most challenging aspects of managing her business was creating a reliable system for billing and tracking purchases, according to Carlee. After an on-farm pick-up system was difficult to organize for both her and her customers, she sought advice from other business owners.

"The idea is that the customer comes to the farm and can pick up their order and either pay right then or create a charge ticket without needing assistance,"

Carlee says. "I made a sheet requiring their name, address, product purchased, amount purchased, and total, if they were paying the amount owed or wanted to be billed at the end of the month, and their signature."

Customers were then contacted and updated on the new pick-up process. Carlee says her customers were very willing to try the new procedure and understood how it worked. The self-serve method allowed greater flexibility and still provided a paper trail to ensure her books were accurate and complete.

"Having happy customers is critical for a successful business, so I do everything I can to meet their needs," Carlee says. "While there is always room for growth, I currently have a strong command of all aspects of my business."

Attending HYPE was one of the most beneficial and fun-filled opportunities I've ever had. I got the chance to dive deeper into important agricultural issues, learn how to properly advocate for what I believe in without putting other's opinions down, and connect and bond with not only fellow FFA members but legislators and others involved in the agriculture industry.

Natalie Kientzy, Silex FFA



"My favorite part about HYMAX was meeting all the new people that will be life-long friends."
Jerry Kaibel, Eldon FFA



When I visited Camp Rising Sun for Area Officer Institute, I was skeptical of what the two-day program would bring. Nevertheless, it proved to be an awesome conference! I had the opportunity to connect with other area officers and learn about their FFA careers. Moreover, I had the opportunity to learn about agricultural education opportunities in Missouri, as well as ways to better include members that are just starting their FFA journeys. In total, AOI greatly improved my abilities to lead, communicate, and inspire while creating a safe and inclusive environment for all members.

Owen Neely, Lockwood FFA





Learning To Do.
Doing To Learn.
Earning To Live.
Living To Serve.

118 chapters.

26 mini grants.

4,266 volunteers.

16,100+ service hours.

\$482,195 economic impact.

The Concordia FFA Chapter works to spearhead a district wide commitment to provide meals to the community through our Meals of Hope meal packaging event. Students who have never faced food insecurity learn more about the importance of supporting others in our community so together we truly do stand Oriole Strong.

Together, we achieve more!

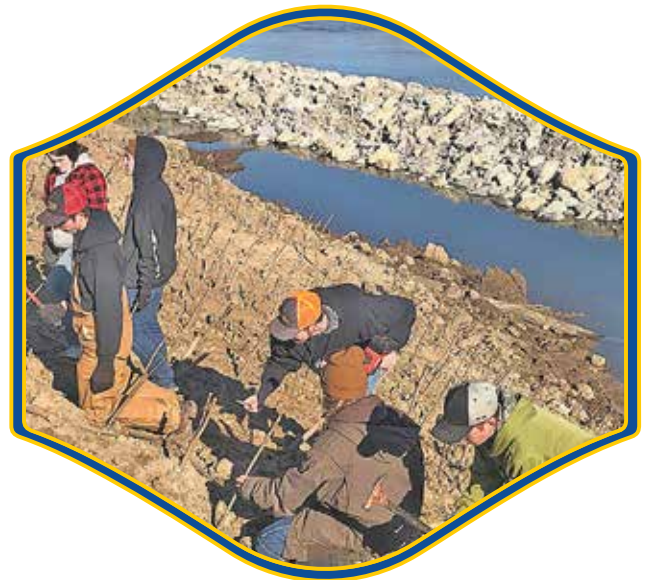
—Dr. Deanna Jurkowski
High School Principal
Concordia High School

Premier Chapter

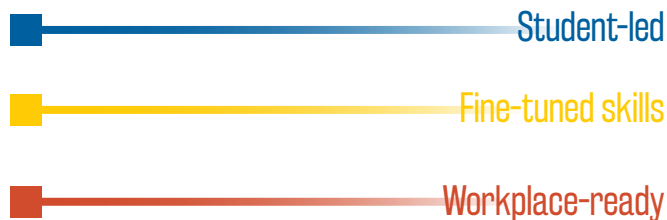
BUILDING COMMUNITIES Missouri Chapter Award Program

“**T**he key to **building communities** is **engagement and collaboration** between our **FFA members and community**. By **building relationships**, FFA members are able to gain **real-world experiences** and **network** with the community. *Living to Serve* is always at the **forefront of our efforts** as we strive to *give back to those that support us.*”

—Kabel Oaks, Trenton FFA Advisor



Missouri Professional Agriculture Student Organization (PAS)



PAS Chapters

Crowder College

Mineral Area College

Missouri State University-West Plains

North Central Missouri College

Northwest Missouri State University

Ozarks Technical Community College

St. Charles Community College

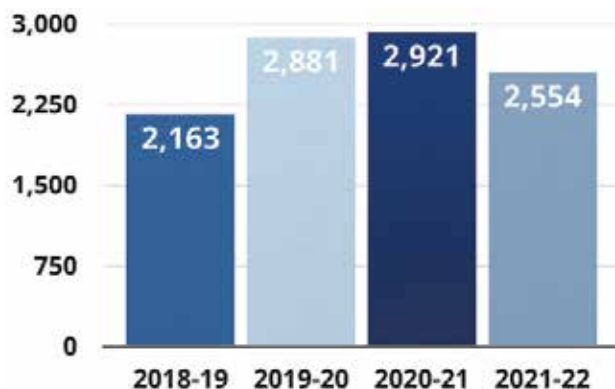
St. Louis Community College

State Fair Community College

State Technical College of Missouri

Three Rivers Community College

Postsecondary Enrollment



Adult Ag Education in Missouri

- 2,392 adults enrolled in 2021-22.
- 26 schools active Young Farmers/Young Farm Wives chapters in 2021-22. State Membership: 442.
- Agriculture instructors in 39 schools had part or all of their time scheduled for adult instruction in 2021-22.
- More than 175 farm families enrolled in the Farm Business Management Analysis program.

- Class work.
- On-site visits.
- Record Analysis.



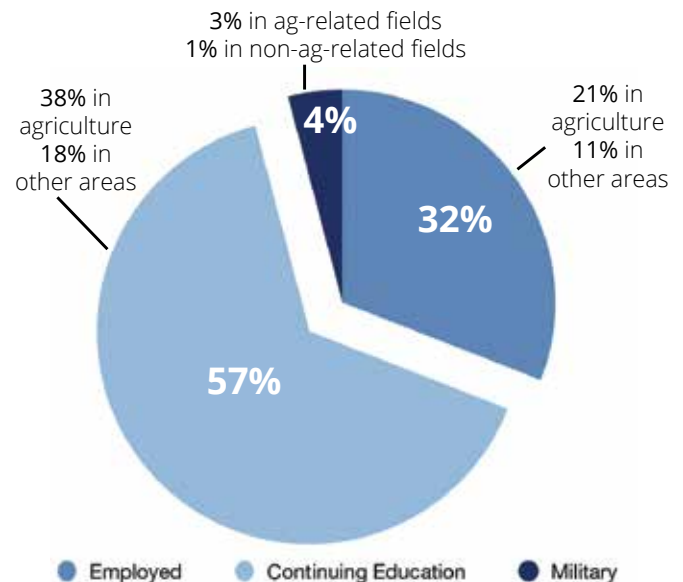
“Using the Missouri Ag Education Record Book system I have documented my income and expenses, both personal and business. This information helps *guide my business decisions and leads to greater profits.*”

—Trenton Jones, Higginsville FFA



High School Ag Education Graduate Placement

2020—**4,413** high school agricultural education graduates. Of that, 91.9% were placed.



Building an Ag *Career*

Hands-on.

That's the mission behind Dawson Gump's Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE). As the State Star in Agricultural Placement, Gump has sharpened his skills in projects from cutting pipe and welding gates to staircase and corral system construction. A member of the California FFA Chapter, he began his FFA career by working for Trachsel's Steel and Fence and later for Gump Construction.

Gump says the work he does in his placement SAE parallels what he has learned in his agricultural mechanics class.

"We weld gates, bale rings," he says. "We even take on projects for Cargill, including building stairs for buildings, feed bunks for their turkeys, and entry/exit gates. We replace floors and sides in cattle trailers as well."

Gump says his role is important to help ensure projects reach completion.

"This job is a great learning experience for me," he says. "I am developing a very important trait

in welding that that will help me throughout the rest of my life."

When Gump started his SAE, he says his goals were to not only make money, but also gain experience and responsibility. His accomplishments have helped him become financially independent and able to purchase his own truck.

"Engineering has been a good experience for me to explore it as a career," Gump says. "I took the ag engineering course in high school, which helped me identify career opportunities within the field."

While in high school, Gump was also a chapter officer and participated in both career development (CDE) and leadership development events (LDE). He was on the Conduct of Chapter Meetings and Parliamentary Procedure LDEs as well as the agricultural mechanics CDE.

Gump attends State Technical College of Missouri's draft and design engineering technology program. After completing his associates degree in the program, he hopes to work for a local engineering company.





STRENGTHENING
Agriculture

Excited About *Ethanol*

Can we increase ethanol production with sugarcane? The curiosity, stemming from a passion for environmental consciousness and expansion of clean energy, prompted FFA member George Frees to conduct an experiment focused on the sugarcane species *Saccharum officinarum*. The Cass Career Center FFA member worked in the chapter's greenhouse to formulate a hypothesis and bring the project to fruition. His efforts earned Frees top honors in the National Agri-Science Proficiency Award competition, and this past spring he was tapped as the State Star in Agriscience at the 2022 Missouri FFA Convention.

"My prediction was that if gibberellic acid is applied to sugarcane, then ethanol biofuel production will be increased," Frees says.

Gibberellic acid interferes with gene transcription for the DELLA protein, which limits plant growth and internode length. Gibberellic acid blocks the production of this protein, thus possibly producing sugarcane that would produce greater biomass per acre, which might also be easier to process.

Eleven sugarcane plants were randomly selected to be placed into four groups, comprising three experimental groups and one control group. The groups were all grown in a temperature-controlled greenhouse, receiving equal amounts of light, proportional fertilizer and proportional water.

Applications of gibberellic acid at concentrations of 250 ppm, 375 ppm, and 500 ppm were applied to test groups, while no gibberellic acid was applied to the control group.

"These applications resulted in a statistically significant increase in the internode lengths of the primary culm of the plants in all three test groups as compared to the control," Frees says. "Overall, this data supports my hypothesis that the use of gibberellic acid increases the ethanol production capability of sugarcane, and these findings support an economically viable option for the expansion of sugarcane-based ethanol production in the United States, as well as on a global scale.

Though his project has concluded, Frees' SAE is far from over. He plans to share his newfound data and knowledge with professors at the University of Missouri.

After graduating high school, Frees plans to continue his education at MU, helping professors with plant-based research projects. Frees hopes to pursue a doctoral degree related to plant sciences and a medical or pharmaceutical doctorate degree with a focus in ethnobotany. He would like to enter a career in genetic engineering in botany and microbiology with a focus on human pharmaceutical research and development in the future.



Premier Chapter

STRENGTHENING AGRICULTURE Missouri Chapter Award Program



“We strive to **strengthen** **agriculture** within the community by **building relationships**, educating FFA and **community members** about **farm safety** and informing the public about agriculture and *the issues the industry currently faces.*

—Randy Plattner, Advisor, Chillicothe FFA

Paving Her Own Path

Lexi Koelling's passion for agriculture might have started with a show calf, but it was the push from her parents

to help her fully understand the entire industry that propelled her to succeed in FFA and earned her the State Star Farmer award at the 2022 Missouri FFA Convention in April.

"When I was a little girl, I was expected to do and help with my family's operation, not just a show cow," Lexi explains. "This helped me develop a deep love and passion for the industry."

Wanting to make money, the Bowling Green FFA member began early investing in cattle that fit her family's operation so that she could market cattle alongside them to earn her own way and create her own program. With her mom's help, she visited an operation in a neighboring state to select eight cows that would begin her registered herd. As part of her Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE), Lexi raised and sold bulls from that initial purchase to commercial cattlemen through the family's bull

sale and other consignment offerings. She also purchased commercial cows that she could use as recipients to help build her project through embryo transfer.

As her project developed and she gained experience, Lexi took on more responsibilities. She now cares for her own cattle and assists in the breeding decisions and artificial insemination of the cattle. She strives to develop bulls that have genomic data in the top 10% of the Angus breed for growth and calving ease.

In high school, Lexi participated in public speaking and was both a chapter and area officer. She also took part in the dairy cattle and soils career development events. Currently a member of the livestock judging team at Blackhawk Community College, Lexi hopes to transfer to Oklahoma State University to further her judging career and earn a degree in Agriculture Business. In the future, she plans to return to the family farm to run the operation's feedlot and work in hay equipment sales at Meyer Implement.



Missouri Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association

State & Region IV NAAE Winner

Lifetime Achievement: **Lisa Evans, DESE, Jefferson City**

Ideas Unlimited

Laura Allen, Richmond

Jess Clonts Memorial Scholarship

Jacob Noblitt, Miller

Outstanding Ag Educator

Kendra Smith, Mexico

Outstanding Early Career Teacher

Emily Gann, Meadville

Outstanding Secondary Program

Mount Vernon Ag Education

Outstanding Service

Robin Horstmeier, O'Fallon

Teacher Mentor Award

Jarred Sayre, Milan

Teachers Turn the Key

Jordan Gerlemann, Crawford Co. R-1

Teach Ag Ambassadors

College of the Ozarks

Kenzie Shriver

Janella Scott

Missouri State

Marcella Cadle

Colin Boyd

Northwest Missouri State

Jenna Stark

Southeast Missouri State

Emily Stricklin

Hannah Dambacher

University of Central Missouri

Joe Hendrix

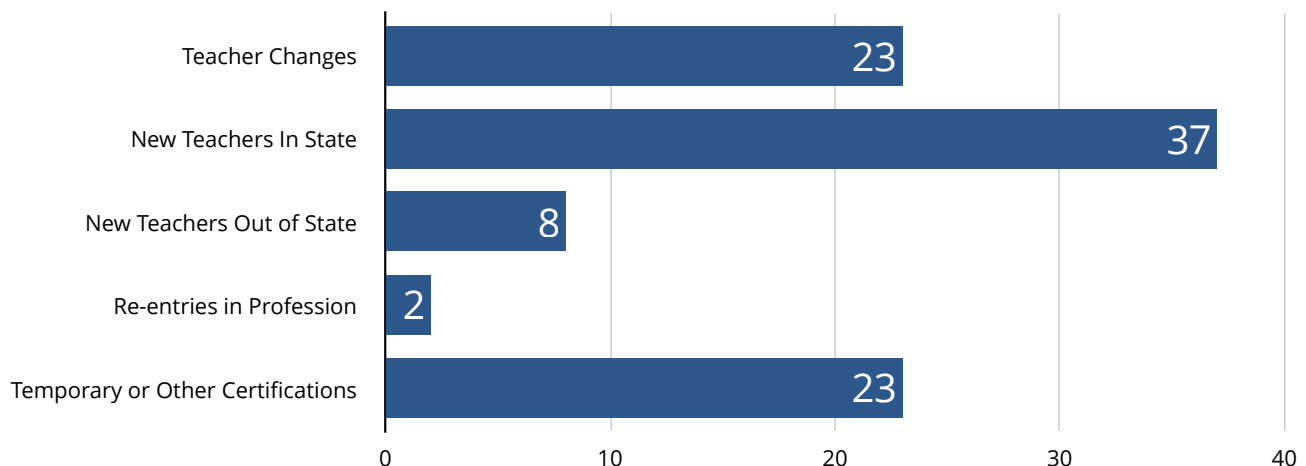
University of Missouri

Natalie Koch

Reagan Limbach

Ag Education Employability Story

State Average Salary: \$56,506



Note: As of 9/1/2022, two positions were yet to be filled.



“Agriculture instructors develop leaders of tomorrow and expose students to new careers and paths in the industry. Our goal is to provide the ingredients to promote *personal growth, leadership and career success.*

—Jay Hale,
Agriculture Teacher & FFA Advisor, West Plains

"This team was a very unique group of individuals — hard-working, incredibly intelligent and extremely fun to work with. I feel so fortunate to have experienced this. Being able to watch my students experience this level of success creates a feeling that is hard to describe. I think the best way to put it is that my heart is full."

— Amanda Haeberlin
Palmyra FFA Advisor

First Place, National FFA Floriculture
Career Development Event



"It is great to have a group of kids that are as dedicated to FFA as they are in being a positive impact on those around them."

— Clint Gailey
Forsyth FFA Advisor
First Place
National FFA Forestry
Career Development Event



STRENGTHENING *Agriculture*



"This team overcame a lot of adversity throughout the year. They really persevered through a lot of challenging times because of this adversity, which made them a fun team to work with. I'm proud of their accomplishments."

— Harold Eckler
North Shelby FFA Advisor
First Place,
National Conduct
of Chapter Meetings
Leadership Development
Event



"These four girls cared for, respected and valued each other as teammates. They worked extremely well together and always kept (the practice sessions) fun. Coaching them was an awesome experience, and they showed a huge amount of growth as a team and individually. This team was memorable because of their relationships with each other."

— Tanner Robertson,
Former Clinton FFA Advisor
First Place, National FFA Horse Judging
Career Development Event

Second Nature SAE

Brett Montgomery knows veterinary science like the back of his hand. After all, the

Brookfield FFA member has been observing and helping at the veterinary clinic his father and grandfather work in since he was a young child.

“Being around veterinary practices is second nature,” he explains. “My parents tell the story of me doing surgery on our living room coffee table just like it was another day in the life of the Montgomery family.”

With veterinary science as his Supervised Agricultural Experience, Montgomery is paving his way into a bright future. He was named national winner in the veterinary science proficiency award area at the 2021 National FFA Convention.

“When I joined FFA, it was natural for me to have a veterinary science SAE with employment at Montgomery Veterinary Clinic as a veterinary assistant,” Montgomery says.

Working under supervision of two veterinarians three days a week and on some weekends, Montgomery assists with surgeries in addition to helping with examinations and administering medications. He also helps vaccinate and performs

other livestock health related tasks on cattle, hogs, sheep, and goats.

“The biggest challenge I face in working at the veterinary clinic is the vast amount of technical knowledge needed to efficiently perform many tasks,” Montgomery says.



While some of the experiences he encountered through his SAE have been unpaid, Montgomery says that the income generated from his veterinary science proficiency has afforded him the opportunity to expand his own cattle herd. By combining

profits from his cattle herd with earnings from his vet science proficiency, Montgomery has been able to put the funds to use for his college education.

“Over time, I have developed practical life skills, including goal-setting and time management. These will help me in my post-secondary education, pursuing my future career, networking, and taking on new challenges.”

Montgomery plans to continue working at the veterinary clinic throughout college to further expand his knowledge and skillset. From goal-setting to time management, he says the experiences will help him not only further his education, but also pursue his future career.

Creating Opportunities

More than a year ago, the foresight and efforts of agriculture industry leaders across our state came to fruition with the incorporation of the Missouri FFA Foundation. Their aim was to create an organization with a vision of cultivating the next generation of leaders for the agriculture industry and our communities.

The Missouri FFA Foundation hit the ground running, first by awarding Living to Serve mini-grants to chapters across the state to launch food insecurity projects. Then in December, the foundation awarded \$25,000 in grants to individual FFA members to

begin or enhance their required Supervised Agricultural

Experience (SAE). During National FFA Week, the Missouri FFA Foundation notified 14 teachers that they were receiving Learning by Doing grants to purchase equipment, supplies, or other needs

for their classes. This spring, through the foundation's Jackets for Jackets campaign, individual donors made gifts to cover the costs of replacing life jackets and other necessary water safety equipment for FFA Camp. Just this August, the foundation provided crucial funding to support the Missouri FFA Service Day at the Missouri State Fair where FFA members from more than 80 chapters came together to pack meals for Missourians facing food insecurity.

"When you look at our work over the past year, what you see is how the Missouri FFA Foundation is committed to supporting agriculture education at the state level, at the local level, and even at the individual level through our grants to teachers and students," said Heather Dimitt-Fletcher, executive director. "The mission of the Missouri FFA Foundation is meaningful. The foundation exists to champion students and teachers, who we know are the heart of agriculture education. Individual or corporate gifts of any size combined with the power of everyone giving accomplishes great things for students, teachers and communities across Missouri."

Looking forward to 2023, the Missouri FFA Foundation is furthering its mission by creating an aligned funding structure for the organizations primarily representing agriculture education in our state, including the Missouri FFA Association, Missouri Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association, Professional Agriculture Students, and Missouri Young Farmers & Young Farm Wives. Through this aligned funding model, when donating to the Missouri FFA Foundation, businesses, organizations, and individuals will know they are supporting all of "Team Ag Ed" and helping to bolster, enhance, and strengthen the educational and leadership opportunities that promote premier leadership, personal growth and career success for Missourians of all ages in agricultural education.

Heather Dimitt-Fletcher
Executive Director, Missouri FFA Foundation



Investing in Student *Success*

SAE grants are one way the Missouri FFA Foundation directly funds individual FFA members across the state. Last December, 25 members received \$1,000 grants to help start or grow their SAE projects. Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE) projects help Missouri FFA members explore career opportunities within agriculture. Members use the grants to start their own businesses, take advantage of educational and training opportunities, purchase equipment, and much more. A few of the projects funded include:

- Purchase of a weed eater, blower, pole saw, wrenches, and other equipment to expand a lawnmowing business into a landscaping one
- Expansion of a four cow/calf herd
- Supplies to start a farm to table baked goods business
- Panels and equipment to upgrade a barn for expansion of a Rambouillet sheep herd
- Start a White Dexter cattle breeding operation
- Establish a blacksmith and leatherworking business



Investing in our FFA members' SAEs pays off as revealed in Lauren Hammett's story.

Hammett had a goat operation of 15 bred does and seven yearlings when she applied for an SAE grant to expand her operation.

She was running a small business selling does and market yearlings to FFA and 4-H members to show at local, area, and state fairs. However, she was starting to run into a road block. She needed to expand the breeding options for her does, but high-quality bucks are expensive and it wouldn't be feasible to

purchase and care for several of them. She knew professional breeders were successfully using AI technology to expand their breeding options. There was a training available for collection and AI of breeding goats using fresh semen. While she could pay for the training, if she was going to incorporate the practices, she would need to purchase several supplies. With her SAE grant, Lauren was able to buy a microscope, an artificial vagina, insemination pipettes, lab supplies, an incubator, a thawing unit, a breeding stand, gloves, syringes, thermometers, and other essential AI supplies.

The Missouri FFA Foundation deeply appreciates the investment of the MFA Incorporated Charitable Foundation in funding our inaugural SAE grants.

Mini-grants Major *Impact*

In the fall of 2021, the Missouri FFA Foundation and the Missouri Farmers Care Foundation provided Missouri FFA Chapters with Living to Serve mini-grants to support projects aimed at addressing food insecurity in their community. A wide variety of projects ensued and the combined total of the program had a monetary equivalent of more than 120,000 meals for Missouri communities. A few of the chapters funded through the Missouri FFA Foundation included Carl Junction, Chadwick, Koshkonong, Malta Bend, and Ste. Genevieve.

Carl Junction FFA members were concerned about their classmates and younger students who didn't have enough to eat at home during days when school wasn't in session. Since other programs in their community provided support during the Christmas holiday season, the members decided it would be better to address the need during their school break in February. The chapter matched their grant from the Missouri FFA Foundation with income from their own fundraiser to fill 128 backpacks that were distributed to students in kindergarten through 12th grade!



In March, Chadwick FFA secured a matching grant from Farm to School that allowed them to purchase enough non-perishable food items to fill backpacks for 36 families through the Care to Learn Backpack Program.



The Koshkonong FFA chapter partnered with the school's FCCLA Club to procure food and supplies for families with school aged children who needed a little extra help during the winter holidays and school break.

The Malta Bend FFA chapter set a goal to keep their local food pantry stocked for the school year. They matched their Living to Serve mini-grant with proceeds from their chapter fundraiser and recruited support from their FFA Booster Club to achieve that goal!



The Ste. Genevieve FFA Chapter joined forces with their local Missouri Farm Bureau agent and raised enough money and food donations to support their school's backpack program during the winter semester.

The Missouri FFA Foundation was proud to support the Missouri FFA Association's State Day of Service where FFA members from across our state provided more than 150,000 meals for Missourian's facing food insecurity.



The Missouri FFA Foundation would like to thank Dustin & Tera Dover and Martin Chitwood for their significant donations to the Missouri FFA Foundation over the past year.

Through the foundation's Jackets for Jackets campaign, past state officers and former FFA members fully funded the purchase of new life jackets and water safety equipment for FFA Camp.



FFA has had an immeasurable impact on agriculture since it was officially established in 1928. This year, the Missouri FFA Foundation launched the 1928 Senior Society to pay homage to that history by recognizing the leadership our high school seniors have provided and the new opportunities ahead of them. FFA members who graduated this spring were nominated from across the state to be a part of this group. To see the inaugural members of the society, please visit missouriffa.org/foundation/1928-senior-society



To make a gift, or discuss giving opportunities:

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Learning by *Doing*

The agriculture industry, similar to many others, is continuously evolving with new technology and standards. A priority

for agriculture education, being responsive to the needs of the industry by providing students with the highest level of knowledge and skill development possible. However, rapid changes in the industry, especially over the past decade, prove a challenge for limited classroom budgets when it comes to providing the most current training, equipment, and supplies. In response to this challenge, the Missouri FFA Foundation launched the Learning by Doing Classroom Grant program. Through this program, teachers can apply for up to \$500 in funds to enhance instruction in production agriculture, agri-business, or other areas that support a rural lifestyle. Funded grants included the purchase of new lab equipment, new machinery, renovations of greenhouses, among other items.

Salisbury High School received one of the Learning by Doing grants to support the purchase of a 3D printer for the ag mechanics class. By using the printer to make items that sold at a local retail store, the class is learning the design and production skills necessary to make hard to find or custom parts for equipment. The agribusiness class

markets the items and manages the income and expenses for the project, which is also being used as a fundraiser for the FFA chapter.



Elsberry High School, another Learning by Doing grant recipient, had a common challenge in animal production, keeping newborn and young animals warm enough in Missouri's winters. Even though the school farm had an enclosed barn, each year they were losing lambs, kids, and piglets, especially if they were born late at night. There simply weren't enough heat lamps for the number of animals the students were raising, and most of the lamps they did have had been repaired numerous times. With the grant, they were able to buy ten new heat lamps. Sarah Ray, Elsberry's ag instructor reported, "This was the most productive lamb/kid/piglet crop we have had within the last few years simply due to having more heat facilities." Ray also shared that the Veterinary Science class students were able to work more efficiently because they didn't need to continually rearrange new mothers with expectant mothers to meet heat needs as they had done in past years.

The 2022 Learning by Doing grants were primarily supported through the generosity of Growing America's Farmers and the Rural King Foundation.

Sponsor Spotlight: FCS Financial is dedicated to supporting the future of agriculture and helping rural communities thrive.

As a cooperative, giving back is part of our culture. From sponsorships, donations and volunteer service to scholarships, community betterment grants and special programs for young, beginning farmers, FCS Financial is committed to serving rural Missouri. Visit <https://www.myfcsfinancial.com/how-we-give-back> to see what we are doing in your community.

We also believe the lessons and leadership skills learned through FFA are an important part of your future. We encourage you to participate and enjoy the experience. Then use and share that knowledge as you take the next step in your journey.

Remember, FCS Financial is ready to help you along the path to success. Be sure to check out all that we have to offer by visiting www.myfcsfinancial.com.

\$253,200

IN GRANTS PROVIDED.

FCS Financial Rural Community and Agricultural Foundation — our long-term investment to grow a prosperous industry and thriving rural communities.

2,400+

HOURS VOLUNTEERED IN 6 YEARS

Partners in Doing allows employees to volunteer at local charities providing community service in our local communities during regular business hours.

\$64,230

DONATED OVER 7 YEARS.

Boost Your Impact matches up to \$25 of employee donations to local charities. An additional drawing each month provides an extra \$500 to one charity.

\$630,000+

PROVIDED ANNUALLY.

FCS Financial supports rural communities through annual sponsorships and donations to charities, commodity groups, youth groups, food banks, women in ag and more.

EDUCATION



Nearly **\$875,000** provided in college scholarships to support rural Missouri's youth. College internships also available.

COMMUNITY BETTERMENT



More than **\$218,000** distributed since 2012 through Shaping Rural Missouri grants to 4-H and FFA for community betterment projects.

LIFE SKILLS



More than **\$1.8 million** provided through the Ag Youth Program emphasizes the value of records, budgeting and obligations to repay.

AG FINANCE EXPERTISE



More than **540** young, beginning farmers have received education through our Connect program and seminars since it launched in 2015.



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As the next generation of agriculturists, we can't wait to see what you do. You show us every day that you are young leaders setting an example, serving communities and reaching goals. Let us help you on that journey to success. Give us a call or visit myfcsfinancial.com to learn more about the opportunities available through our youth support programs.



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**Scholarship applicants must meet all qualifications in application to be eligible **Grant and Ag Youth Funding applicants must be a member of a 4-H club or FFA chapter located in one of the 102 Missouri counties served by FCS Financial. Growing Relationships. Creating Opportunities. is a trademark of FCS Financial, ACA.

